

GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

August 11, 2006

Preparedness and Planning

MI Volunteer Registry

The MI Volunteer Registry is an internet-based system enabling healthcare personnel and citizens to pre-register to volunteer their assistance during an emergency. The Registry assembles volunteers based on verification of their identity, credentials, and qualifications. Those interested in volunteering can securely enter their contact information on the website. During an emergency, volunteer information will be gathered and appropriate volunteers contacted by authorized personnel. Physicians, nurses, behavioral health, emergency medical services personnel, ancillary support staff and all other individuals interested in assisting are encouraged to register. There are 776 volunteers registered from the state of Michigan and border state counties.

The Registry has recently completed its first upgrade to improve its look and usefulness. Many additional fields have been added that will help to ensure a strong response in the event of an emergency. Registered volunteers are encouraged to visit the new site and review their individual profile information. Please also remember to logon and view the various training and exercise opportunities that may be posted from time to time on the volunteer group homepages.



To register go to the [MI Volunteer Registry website](http://MIVolunteerRegistry.org). You may also visit the MDCH's Office of Public Health Preparedness's website for more information. Additional help is available by contacting help-mivolunteerregistry@michigan.gov or phoning (866) 636-6324.

HHS Assists States with Another Antiviral Drug Purchase

The HHS [press release](#) announces a contract award with GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) to provide zanamivir (Relenza®) to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, five U.S. territories and three Freely Associated States of the Pacific at a federally subsidized price. The contract will run for a period of two years with an initial contract award amount of \$16,833,000. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is stockpiling antivirals and is allocating them to states based on population. The complete table of projected antiviral purchases and subsidized allocations for all jurisdictions can be accessed on the [PandemicFlu website](#).

RAND Health Announces Five New Reports on Public Health Preparedness

The RAND Health Division announced the release of five technical

News

Guidance For Airline Passengers

In light of recent events in the United Kingdom, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is implementing a series of security measures, some visible and some not visible, to ensure the security of the traveling public and the nation's transportation system.

Indonesia's Avian Influenza Data Now Open to All

Indonesia has allowed unlimited access to its data on avian influenza. This access will allow scientists from around the world to better understand the H5N1 virus serotype.

Events

GLBHI Conference

Great Lakes Border Health Initiative Conference (GLBHI): August 24-25, 2006 – Dearborn, Michigan. This two-day conference is an opportunity for health care and emergency preparedness professionals along international borders of Canada and the United States to gather and discuss ongoing collaborative work on infectious disease surveillance.

reports on public health preparedness:

- [Facilitated Look Backs: A New Quality Improvement Tool for Management of Routine Annual and Pandemic Influenza](#)
- [Organizing State and Local Health Departments for Public Health Preparedness](#)
- [Public Health Preparedness: Integrating Public Health And Hospital Preparedness Programs](#)
- [Quality Improvement: Implications for Public Health Preparedness](#)
- [Tabletop Exercises for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness in Local Public Health Agencies](#)

Best Practices Guide for Mega-Shelters

The International Association of Assembly Managers has published [guidelines](#) to help government authorities use their facilities in response to disasters caused by hurricanes and to help facility managers understand the activation process, shelter standards, contracting, liability exposure, and how to plan for the next storm season. The guidelines are available via the Center for Venue Management Studies.

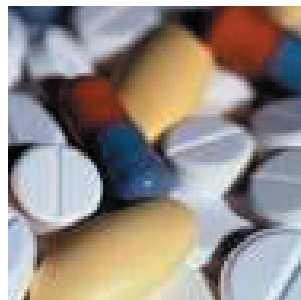
Exercises

State-Level Public Information Tabletop Exercise

On August 9, 2006, the Office of Public Health Preparedness hosted a one-day communication exercise for state public information officers. Personnel from the Michigan Departments of Natural Resources, Community Health, Agriculture, and State Police Emergency Management Homeland Security Division as well as Michigan State University Extension participated in this event. The goals were to strengthen collaboration between departments and operationalize public information procedures. Using the first four WHO Global Pandemic Phases, participants discussed avian influenza and the emerging public information needs.

Region 1 Strategic National Stockpile Exercise

In a major influenza outbreak, antiviral medications would be needed. It is likely that demand would quickly outweigh the local supply of these medications. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, through the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), can provide antiviral medications when local supplies are exhausted.



During a recent Region 1 exercise, D1RE Play2, OPHP received a request through the emergency management system for Tamiflu®, an antiviral medication. SNS staff at OPHP distributed mock antiviral medication (in this case, SweetTarts®) to eight local health department distribution nodes within the region. Local health department personnel met the delivery vehicle, signed the chain of custody forms, and then proceeded to transport the “medication” to their local dispensing sites.

The exercise gave SNS staff at OPHP an opportunity to use distribution protocol, mapping software and test administrative procedures. While all of the SNS supplies arrived on time, it was apparent that further mechanisms can be adapted to increase efficient routing. SNS staff members are working to correct the issues.

Pandemic

Preparing for a Pandemic Influenza: A Primer for Governors and Senior State Officials

On July 18, the National Governors Association (NGA) issued a [press release](#) announcing a new pandemic influenza [publication](#). Recognizing that aggressive, comprehensive planning at the state level will be essential to effectively manage a pandemic influenza or other widespread disease outbreak, the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) has released "Preparing for a Pandemic Influenza: A Primer for Governors and Senior State Officials". A pandemic outbreak, should it occur, is likely to affect hundreds or even thousands of communities across the country simultaneously and could come in a series of waves.

State Pandemic Influenza Summits: Building Partnerships for Pandemic Preparedness

As part of the national pandemic influenza planning process, Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), Michael O. Leavitt, requested that all states and territories hold a pandemic influenza planning summit. These summits were convened to inform and involve public health, emergency response, political, economic and community leadership in the pandemic planning process and to facilitate coordination among all of these groups. The purpose of this report is to capture general trends and experiences shared by states in their planning and outcomes of the summits, as well as to highlight innovative planning mechanisms that some states used that may be adapted for other health-related purposes.

MSU Ag Expo 2006

Michigan State University held their 27th annual Agricultural Equipment Exposition (AgExpo) on June 18 – 20, 2006. This event provided demonstrations and exhibits featuring the latest university research, equipment and vehicles and other products and services of interest to farmers and agribusinesses.

Domestic poultry have the potential to become vectors for disease as a result of contact with migrating wildfowl populations, and it is essential to provide good information to farmers and agriculturalists. OPHP attended the AgExpo, and hosted an educational booth on avian and pandemic influenza. The OPHP exhibit included information on the history of pandemic influenza, the difference between pandemic and avian influenza, the role of public health in a pandemic, and hygiene messages.

Global Firm Taking Precautions against an Influenza Pandemic

The Cincinnati-based company [Convergys Corporation](#) is buying disinfectant wipes by the millions for use by employees of its 72 call centers across the world. The world's largest call center outsourcing company, which also provides human resources and billing services, considers the towelettes a first line of defense against the threat of a global pandemic from bird flu or other highly contagious disease.

Communications

Project on the Public and Biological Security

According to a new [survey](#) of high-risk hurricane areas in eight states—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas—conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health Project on the Public and Biological Security, one-third (33%) of residents said if government officials said they had to evacuate due to a major hurricane this season, they would not or are unsure if they would leave.

Media Field Guide for Terrorism and Other Public Health Emergencies

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) created this [guide](#) to provide the most important information that media professionals might need in the field while covering a terrorist attack or other public health emergency. These guides were created specifically to fill the void of expert-reviewed and approved information about terrorist agents and the public health system focusing on the unique needs posed by extreme public health emergencies. Resources dealing with natural disasters and related issues already exist in many forums. Just the same, many of the new programs and resources described in this field guide—and more fully in the [media reference guide](#)—are relevant to all public health emergencies including natural disasters.

Disaster Readiness Tips for People with Disabilities

The National Organization on Disability's Emergency Preparedness Initiative recently developed [four brochures](#) with disaster readiness tips for people with disabilities. These documents are also posted on the Health Alert Network.

Third Annual National Preparedness Month

For the third straight year, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will sponsor [National Preparedness Month](#), along with a coalition of more than 200 national, regional, state and local organizations. National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. This year's goals are to increase public awareness about the importance of family emergency preparedness and to urge individuals to make themselves and their loved ones better prepared.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Launches Updated Emergency Preparedness Website

U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Ready Campaign launch of an updated version of its Web site, www.ready.gov to educate Americans about the simple steps they should take to be ready for a variety of emergencies.

Surveillance

Avian Influenza (H11) Transmitted from Wild Birds to Humans

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's online publication, *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, [reported](#) evidence of H11 avian influenza exposure in three people (n=107) who were routinely and heavily exposed to wild ducks and geese through recreational activities (duck hunting) or through their employment (bird banding). Two laboratory methods showed evidence of past infection with influenza A/H11N9, a less common virus strain in wild ducks, in these three people. Although this is not the highly pathogenic strain currently of concern in Asia (H5N1), this does show transmissibility between wild waterfowl and humans.

Hospital Preparedness

Hospitals in Hurricane Katrina Report

The Urban Institute has published a [report](#) entitled, "Hospitals in Hurricane Katrina: Challenges Facing Custodial Institutions in a Disaster". The report explores what happened in the affected area's hospitals, and why they had varied experiences.

Model Communities Link EMS and Public Health

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), Division of Injury Response (DIR) has

selected seven communities as [best practice models](#) of how emergency medical services (EMS) can work with other safety and public health agencies in times of disaster.

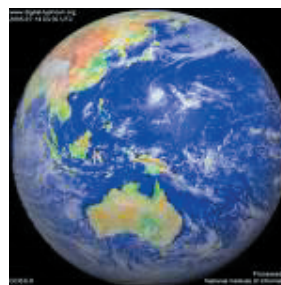
Training & Education

Date/Time	Event Description (include weblink, if available)	Location
Aug. 7-11, 2006 or Sep. 11-15, 2006	<u>Hospital Emergency Response Training (HERT) for Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI) Train-the-Trainer Course</u> This course is designed to provide guidance to hospitals, EMS, health care facility personnel and others who may become involved in a mass casualty incident as a result of a hazardous materials incident or weapons of mass destruction event. For questions call Mr. Ron Freeman at (323) 757-0716, (323) 823-0856, or email Mr. Freeman at hertii@earthlink.net .	Noble Training Center 490 Care Drive Ft. McClellan, AL (256) 240-7500
Aug. 23, 2006 2pm – 3pm	ComNET: Communications, News, Equipment, and Training Featured stories included in this satellite broadcast: resource typing, agro-terrorism, and water search and rescue.	Office of Public Health Preparedness Lansing, MI Large Training Rm
Aug. 28, 2006 8am – 6pm	<u>Emergency Responder and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community</u> Training curriculum developed by and for emergency responders who have direct interaction with deaf and hard of hearing people. Topics will include: understanding hearing loss, emergency responder roles, emergency preparedness, and partnering for a safer community.	Cadillac Place Conference Room L150 Detroit, MI
Nov. 3-5, 2006	<u>Clinical Vaccinology Course</u> This course will focus on new developments and concerns related to use of vaccines in pediatric, adolescent, and adult populations. Information regarding the preliminary program, registration, and hotel accommodations is available online. For more information, e-mail idcourse@nfid.org or telephone (301) 656-0003, ext. 19.	Crowne Plaza Atlanta- Buckhead Atlanta, GA
Online – Self Study	Providence Journal Hurricane Series The Providence Journal has published a six-part series examining the strengths and weaknesses of the state's hurricane plan and offering advice on how to prepare for natural disasters. Topics include power, communications, evacuation, shelters, and response.	Online

Regional News

In Memoriam – Dr Nancy Finzel

As many of you may be aware, Dr. Nancy Finzel, Medical Director for Region 2 North, passed away on July 27, 2006 after a long and courageous battle against ovarian cancer. All those who had the pleasure of working with Dr. Finzel over the past two years know what a tremendous asset she was to preparedness efforts not only in 2 North but statewide. She was a dedicated colleague and a wonderful, positive individual who will be truly missed by all. Her hard work and accomplishments will never be forgotten.



Region 2N Beaumont Hospital Recognized for Disaster Preparedness

The National Foundation for Trauma Care has identified William Beaumont Hospital – Royal Oak has been identified as one of the five “Best Preparedness Practice” Trauma Centers in the nation. The award was based on preparedness for a terrorist-type attack in the community as well as the hospital’s ability to respond to other disaster hazards.

Dr. Nancy Finzel, former Medical Director of Region 2 North, and Ms. Kay Beauregard, past Chair of the Region 2 North Planning Board, were instrumental in attaining this significant designation for the Hospital. Dr. Finzel was presented the award shortly before her death after a long battle with ovarian cancer. It is a lasting tribute to her work in helping not only Beaumont Hospital but also Region 2 North become better prepared to respond to disaster situations.

Beaumont will compile its policies, procedures and practices into a final report, which will be distributed to trauma centers throughout the United States and federal and state legislators.

Region 3 Stockpiles Antibiotics for Partners

In times of emergency, or a biologic terrorism event, it will be of paramount importance to assure that staff and their families are protected against disease. HRSA Region 3 is in the process of completing a stockpile of Cipro and Doxycycline for all of their partners. The process began earlier this year with a survey of all hospitals, EMS organizations, public health departments and emergency managers in the fourteen-county region in order to determine current staffing numbers. With the highly capable assistance of Mr. Larry Shoup, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator of the Michigan Pharmacists Association, the Region 3 Pharmacy Committee developed recommendations for the proper drugs and prophylactic regimes to cover all hospital, pre-hospital, public health and emergency management staff in the region and their families for a period of 5 days. This is felt to be adequate antibiotic coverage for these essential personnel and their families until the arrival of the SNS push packs and other sources of antibiotics. At this time, Region 3 is not planning to stockpile antiviral medications, due to the very high cost, but hospitals and MCAs are allowed to purchase antivirals for their staff and family with specified block grant funds that will be disbursed by the Regional office in August.

Regions 7 and 8: Epidemiological Methods for Emergency Response

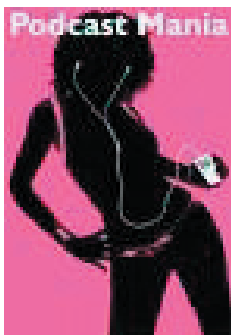
The Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness (MI-CPHP) is offering a one-day, second-level “Epidemiological Methods for Emergency Response” [course](#) on September 19. The Marquette County Health Department in Negaunee will serve as the host site and remote video links will connect the LMAS District Health Department (Newberry) and the Western UP District Health Department (Hancock). There are no prerequisites and the course is free. Nursing contact hours, CME and CECH credit are available. You do not need to be affiliated with one of these health departments to attend; all attendees must [register](#). For further information, email prepared@umich.edu or call (734) 763-6526.

Other News

Heptavalent Botulinum Antitoxin to be Acquired by HHS

On June 1, 2006, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a contract for the purchase of 200,000 doses of heptavalent botulism antitoxin from Cangene Corporation (Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada) at a price of \$363 million with delivery to the Strategic National Stockpile scheduled to begin in 2007. The heptavalent antitoxin is expected to be effective against all known types of botulinum toxin. The CDC and certain state and local health departments currently retain stocks of a licensed trivalent antitoxin against

types A, B, and E. Because it is effective against all known botulinum toxins, a heptavalent botulinum immunoglobulin affords greater protection from a bioterrorist attack since the type of toxin used may not be known.



CDC Podcasts Available

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now has podcasts available online. A podcast is an audio or video broadcast that can be downloaded for playing later on a portable MP3 player, a computer, or a CD. Typically, a podcast is a continually updated series and users can subscribe to automatically receive all new episodes that are released. Currently featured on the CDC podcast site are broadcasts covering working with stress, the history of bioterrorism agents, and violence on the job.

Google Alerts

Google Alerts is a service where individuals can sign up to automatically receive emails when there are new Google results for your search terms. Google currently offers four types of alerts: News, Web, News & Web, and Groups. For example, setting an alert for "Department of Homeland Security" will return items such as their new emergency preparedness website, border security updates, and border management contracts.

Progress in Developing the National Asset Database

As outlined in Presidential Directive No. 7, federal departments and agencies are required to identify and prioritize the United States' critical infrastructure and key resources, and protect them from terrorist attacks. The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Inspector General has issued a report, which assesses the actions DHS has taken to complete this requirement. This framework requires the support of a comprehensive, national asset inventory, and DHS has named this the National Asset Database.

2006 Emergency Preparedness / Homeland Security Survey

As the nation approaches the five-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11 and the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, led by conference President and Dearborn Mayor Michael A. Guido, held a media forum at the National Press Club discussing the state of disaster preparedness in America's cities. The group conducted an emergency preparedness/homeland security survey of 138 cities representing 38 states in the nation, and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Some of the key findings of the survey are listed in the press release, and the full survey can be accessed on the United States Conference of Mayors Website.



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The Guardian of Public Health
August 11, 2006
Weblink List

Guidance For Airline Passengers

<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5795>

Indonesia's Avian Influenza Data Now Open to All

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/detailnational.asp?fileid=20060804.H07&irec=6>

GLBHI Conference

http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2945_5104_5279_40279-139142--,00.html

MI Volunteer Registry

www.mivolunteerregistry.org

HHS Assists States with Another Antiviral Drug Purchase

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/state/antivirals.html>

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2006pres/20060720.html>

RAND Health Announces Five New Reports on Public Health Preparedness

- http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR320/
- http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR318/
- http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR317/
- http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR316/
- http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR319/

Best Practices Guide for Mega-Shelters

http://www.iaam.org/members/Sec_pages/Mega-ShelterPlanning&Activation.pdf

Preparing for a Pandemic Influenza: A Primer for Governors and Senior State Officials

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0607PANDEMICPRIMER.PDF>

State Pandemic Influenza Summits: Building Partnerships for Pandemic Preparedness

<http://www.astho.org/pubs/ASTHOSatePandemicInfluenzaSummitReport.pdf>

Global Firm Taking Precautions against an Influenza Pandemic

<http://news.enquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060804/BIZ/608040343/1001>

Project on the Public and Biological Security

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/press/releases/press07202006.html>

Media Field Guide for Terrorism and Other Public Health Emergencies

Part: <http://www.hhs.gov/emergency/mediaguide/field/HHSMediaFieldGuideFinal.pdf>

Full: <http://www.hhs.gov/emergency/mediaguide/PDF/HHSMedisReferenceGuideFinal.pdf>

Disaster Readiness Tips for People with Disabilities

<http://www.nod.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=11>

Third Annual National Preparedness Month

NPM website: <http://www.ready.gov/america/npm/index.htm>

Avian Influenza (H11) Transmitted from Wild Birds to Humans in Iowa

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol12no08/06-0492.htm>

Hospitals in Hurricane Katrina Report

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411348_katrinahospitals.pdf

Model Communities Link EMS and Public Health

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/masscasualties/modelcommunities.asp>

Hospital Emergency Response Training (HERT) for Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI) Train-the-Trainer Course

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/NTC/B461.asp>

Emergency Responder and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community: Taking the First Steps to Disaster Preparedness

http://www.michdhh.org/news/ann_200601.html - ann017

Clinical Vaccinology Course

<http://www.nfid.org/conferences/idcourse06>

Providence Journal Hurricane Series

<http://www.projo.com/extra/2006/hurricane>

Regions 7 and 8: Epidemiological Methods for Emergency Response

flyer: http://www.sph.umich.edu/micphp/Epid2/brochure/epi2_flyer.pdf

register: <http://www.sph.umich.edu/micphp/>

CDC Podcasts Available

www.cdc.gov/podcasts

Google Alerts

<http://www.google.com/alerts/faq.html?hl=en>

Progress in Developing the National Asset Database

http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/OIG_06-40_Jun06.pdf

2006 Emergency Preparedness / Homeland Security Survey

http://www.mayors.org/uscm/news/press_releases/documents/disasterpreparedness_072606.pdf